

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

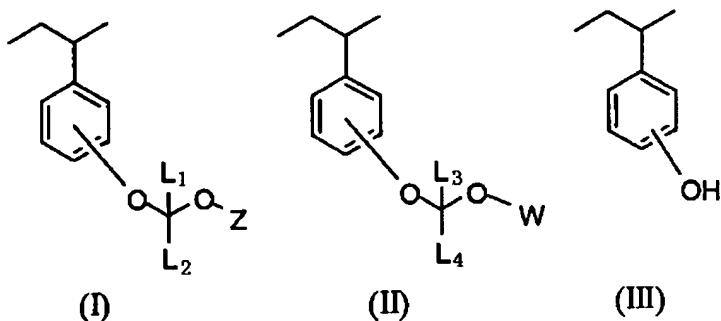
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A positive resist composition for electron-beam, X-ray or EUV, comprising:

(a) a polymer capable of increasing its solubility in an alkali developer under action of an acid, wherein the polymer has repeating units represented by formula (I), repeating units represented by formula (II), and repeating units represented by formula (III), and a molecular weight dispersion degree of 1.5 or below,

(b) a compound capable of generating an acid upon irradiation with an actinic ray or radiation, and

(c) a solvent:



wherein L_1 to L_4 , which are the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom, a straight-chain, branched or cyclic alkyl group or an aralkyl group, and Z represents a straight-chain, branched or cyclic alkyl group or an aralkyl group,

W has the same meaning as Z and is a group having an alicyclic or aromatic group, and

Z and L_1 , or W and L_4 , may be combined with each other to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that the groups represented by Z and W are not the same.

2-3. (canceled).

4. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) is from 5 to 60 mole % based on the total repeating units in the resin.

5. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) is from 5 to 30 mole % based on the total repeating units in the resin.

6. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the repeating unit represented by formula (II) is from 5 to 60 mole % based on the total repeating units in the resin.

7. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the repeating unit represented by formula (II) is from 5 to 30 mole % based on the total repeating units in the resin.

8. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the content ratio of repeating units of formula (I) to repeating units of formula (II) in the resin is from 0.10:1 to 1:0.10.

9. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the content ratio of repeating units of formula (I) to repeating units of formula (II) in the resin is from 0.25:1 to 1:0.25.

10. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer (a) further comprises a repeating unit corresponding to tertiary alkyl (meth)acrylate.

11. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the component (b) is from 2 to 10% by weight based on the total solids in the composition.

12. (original): The composition according to claim 1, further comprising a fluorine-based and/or silicon-based surfactant.

13. (original): The composition according to claim 1, further comprising a basic compound.

14. (original): A pattern formation method comprising steps of forming a resist film by using the positive resist composition claimed in claim 1, and exposing and developing said resist film.

15. (new): The composition according to claim 1, wherein Z is a straight-chain, branched or cyclic alkyl group or an aralkyl group substituted with a group having 12 or less carbon atoms.